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News Release

ICE AGENTS ARREST 14 CRIMINAL ALIENS IN BROWNSVILLE AREA

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents here arrested 14 aliens Wednesday who have been convicted of a variety of felony offenses ranging from sexually assaulting a child to impersonating an attorney. All will be processed for deportation.

The arrests were part of Operation ICE Net, an ongoing enforcement action targeting criminal aliens living in U.S communities. Among the 14 arrested are four who have been convicted of sex crimes involving children, three who have been convicted of domestic violence, four who have been convicted of drug crimes, and one who falsely represented herself as an attorney.

"The law is very clear on these matters. The United States welcomes legal immigrants with open arms, but if they commit certain crimes, they risk losing their legal status," said Alonzo Pena, special agent-in-charge of the San Antonio ICE office. "ICE is committed to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system by arresting and seeking the removal of criminal aliens who have preyed on our communities."

Operation ICE Net has resulted in approximately 170 aggravated felony arrests since October 2004.

The 14 arrested are citizens of Mexico who gained lawful permanent resident status in the U.S., commonly referred to as "green card" holders. All have been placed in removal proceedings and were transported to the Port Isabel Processing Center pending the outcome of their cases. Each will be scheduled for a hearing before an impartial federal immigration judge.

Arrested were:

- A 30-year-old man who was convicted of aggravated sexual assault on a child.
- A 36-year-old woman who was convicted of injury to a child.
- A 25-year-old man who was convicted of domestic violence.
- A 27-year-old man who was convicted of domestic violence.
- A 32-year-old man who was convicted of aggravated assault and two DWI's.

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- A 42-year-old man who was convicted of possession of a controlled substance.
- A 55-year-old woman who was convicted of felony theft and falsely representing herself as a attorney.
- A 19-year-old man who was convicted of possession of controlled substance.
- A 31-year-old man who was convicted of indecency with child.
- A 37-year-old woman who was convicted of possession of a controlled substance.
- A 37-year-old man who was convicted of possession of controlled substance.
- A 50-year-old man who was convicted of indecency with a child.
- A man who was convicted of domestic violence.
- A 22-year-old man who was convicted of indecency with a child.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.